Welcome to the spring DPRG seminar series. Our starting speaker for the year will be Dr. Tony Simon, who is a cognitive neuroscientist at the University of San Diego. He is an expert on cognition in children with chromosome 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and will be speaking to us about his work. He comes to us due to the efforts of Dr. Nicole Tartaglia whom he is collaborating with. I’d like to thank Nicole for suggesting having Dr. Simon as a speaker and would encourage other DPRG members to consider having colleagues from other institutions speak to the DPRG group if they are visiting Denver. It is a great opportunity to expand our network of colleagues. Depending upon available funding, the DPEF endowment may also be able to assist with speaker costs.

As many of you heard during the December DPRG meeting, Dr. Randy Ross received an outstanding score on his application for renewal of the DPRG T32 program. This score reflects both the hard work of both Randy and Linda Greco-Sanders in developing the renewal as well as the reflecting the strength of the DPRG as a group. Congratulations to all who were involved in this process and many thanks to Randy and Linda for leading this effort.

Looking forward to seeing you next year.

Best
Christian Hopfer, MD
Executive Director
DPRG SEMINAR SCHEDULE
Spring 2011

All seminars are on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:45 AM at The Children's Hospital, Gary Pavilion, in the Denver Room. Prior to each seminar there is a "coffee hour" from 9:30 - 10:00 AM.

January 11
Tony Simon Ph.D., Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry UC Davis
Cognitive, Behavioral and Psychiatric Issues in Youth with Chromosome 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome

January 25
Brian Wolff, PhD., Postdoctoral Fellow, UCD
Proposed Study to Assess Vagal, Neuroendocrine, and Social-Contextual Predictors of Sympathetic Nervous System Hyper-Reactivity in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

February 8
Thomas J. Crowley, M.D., Professor, Dept of Psychiatry, UCD
Risky Decisions and Their Consequences: Brain Activation in Conduct Disorder with Substance Use Disorder

February 22
Joy Browne, PhD., Associate Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, UCD
TBA

(DPRG Executive Committee meeting immediately following the presentation)

March 8
Eric Moody, PhD., Postdoctoral Fellow, UCD
Basic Mechanisms of Interpersonal Social Behavior in Children with Autism

March 22
Christie Hartman, PhD., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, UCD
TBA

April 12
Monique LeBourgeois, PhD., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Integrative Physiology, UCB
Sleep Regulation, Emotion, and School Readiness in Early Childhood

April 26
Lisa Meltzer, PhD., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, National Jewish Health
Sleep and Daytime Functioning in Parents of Children with Chronic Illnesses

(DPRG Executive Committee meeting immediately following the presentation)

May 10
Audrey Blakeley-Smith, PhD., Assistant Professor, UCD
TBA

May 24
Spring Fling
AFFILIATED SEMINARS

Affect Seminar
September-May, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month 1:00-2:30pm, Ben Nighthorse Campbell Building, Room 304/305. BNC: Bob Emde

Developmental Disabilities Research Group
2nd Tuesday of the month 8:30-10:00 a.m. For more information please go to: http://www.jfkpartners.org/default.asp?page=84 :Susan Hepburn

Perinatal Vulnerability to Psychosis Research Group
4th Tuesday of the month 8:15-9:45 (9:00-10:30 May –August), Ben Nighthorse Campbell Building, Room 202: Randy Ross

Child Grand Rounds
Please visit the DPRG website for an updated schedule.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, contact the leader. If there is an area not covered that you think there would be interest in, contact the DPRG office.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

The University of Colorado medical students have a scholarly activity requirement. Over the 4 years of medical school, students develop, complete, and present a scholarly project. In response to this opportunity, the DPRG postdoctoral faculty applied for and received NIH funding to support medical student research training. The DPRG medical student program coordinates with an already present Department of Psychiatry program to provide faculty mentors for students to complete their scholarly project. The Department of Psychiatry program is presented on the web at www.psychiatryscholars.org. The website also includes the DPRG program. Any DPRG faculty that would like to be considered as a faculty mentor for medical student scholarly activities, please contact Randy Ross (Randy.ross@ucdenver.edu), Mark Laudenslager (Mark.laudenslager@ucdenver.edu), or Sharon Hunter (Sharon.hunter@ucdenver.edu).

Request to Advertise the NIMH Postdoc Training Program
Members of DPRG - if you are giving a talk and want to inform the audience that we have training programs available, there is a PowerPoint slide offered that you can include at the end of your presentation. If you have any further questions you can email Linda Greco-Sanders.

NIMH Postdoctoral Trainees
We welcomed two new postdoctoral trainees to our NIMH T32 program in the early fall: Analice Hoffenberg, MD, MSPH and Kristina McFadden, PhD. Analice is sponsored by Christian Hopfer and Kristina by Don Rojas. Returning NIMH trainees include Joseph Dagher, PhD (Banich), Angela Friend, PhD (Pennington), Detre Godinez, PhD (Banich), Lisa Badanes, PhD (Hankin), and Christie Petrenko, PhD (Taussig). Finally, Kimberly D’Anna, PhD (Laudenslager) who formerly had an individual NSF fellowship joined as one our T32 trainees in September. Kalynn Schultz, PhD completed her postdoc training this past August. We look forward to seminar presentations of our trainees later this year. The training grant competing renewal was submitted in May and reviewed in November. It was given a score of 17; we are hopeful that funding will begin in July.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Committee
Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 22nd & April 26th, immediately following the seminars.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting will be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 31-April 2, 2011. For more information please visit the website, http://www.srcd.org/.

The 24th Annual Gravens Conference on the Physical and Developmental Environment of the High Risk Infant, scheduled for January 26-29, 2011 in Clearwater Beach, FL focuses on developmental care and the impact of the physical environment on premature and high risk babies. For more information, please visit: https://cmetracker.net/USF/Files/Brochures/218082.pdf

The 6th International Conference on Brain Monitoring and Neuroprotection in the Newborn is scheduled for February 10-12, 2011 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. It will focus on assessment strategies of early brain function and neuroprotection research, as well as clinical applications. For more information, please visit the website, https://cmetracker.net/USF/Files/Brochures/217895.pdf

18th Annual Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois June 8-11, 2011. Early registration ends April 1st. The meeting will focus on disease prevention and treatment. For further information please visit https://www.pnirs.org/meetings/index.cfm

POSTERS/PAPERS/BOOKS PUBLISHED


FUNDING

Sherry Leonard, PhD

VA Merit Review (Leonard, P.I.)
“Smoking and Schizophrenia: A Gene X Environment Interaction”
This proposal will examine the regulation of gene expression of nicotinic receptors in postmortem brain of smokers and non-smokers.

10/01/06 to 9/30/10 $125,000.

NIDA RO1 DA009457-11 (Leonard, P.I.)
“Regulation of Alpha 7 Nicotinic Receptor Assembly in Human Smokers”
This proposal will investigate the underlying biology for low levels of expression of the alpha 7 nicotinic receptor gene in schizophrenia. We will determine the effects of splice variants on expression of surface receptors and measure the expression of RIC3, a protein contributing to assembly of a7* receptors, in postmortem brain tissue.

4/01/07 to 3/31/12 $225,000.

NIMH RO1 MH081177-01 (Leonard, P.I.)
“Regulation of the Human a7 Nicotinic Receptor Gene in Schizophrenia”
This proposal will study the transcription and translation of the human a7 nicotinic receptor gene in postmortem brain and tissue culture cell lines. Also proposed are genetic studies in the locus of the a 7 gene.

7/01/07 to 6/30/12 $200,000.

Mark Laudenslager, PhD

National Cancer Institute RO1 CA12697 (Laudenslager, P.I.)
“A psychoeducation Intervention for BMT caregivers: Biobehavioral markers and outcome”
This is a randomized control trial of a psychoeducation with stress management intervention for caregivers of blood or marrow transplant recipients. Outcome variables include psychosocial, neuroendocrine, immune, and sleep markers.

6/01/08 to 5/31/13 $530,000.
DPRG NEWSLETTER UPDATE FORM

In order to keep information in our newsletter and our records current, it is important to hear of the activities of our DPRG community members. To make that task easier, please use this form (attach additional sheets if necessary). We will include this information in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

Name: 

Phone #(s):

Title/Affiliation:

Address:

E-mail:

1. Since the last issue of the newsletter was published, have you:

   a. Presented posters/papers at any meetings, conferences, etc.? (Please give date, location, name of conference, presentation title.)

   b. Published any papers? (NOTE: Please list full citation. "In press" citations will not be printed in the Newsletter. Please include ONLY published material.)

   c. Attended any conferences of interest to DPRG members? (Please give date, location, and name of meeting.)

   d. Received any awards, honors, recognition for your work? (Please give title of award, awarding agency and date that the award was given.)

2. Have you received funding for any research? (Please list sources, amount, dates and title of project.)

3. Do you know of any upcoming meetings that would be of interest to DPRG members and should be listed in the Newsletter? (Please provide name, date, locations, and who to contact.)

Return form to: dprg@ucdenver.edu

THANKS!